

Inter Caste Marriage and Indian society in the Novels of Chetan Bhagat

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Abstract

“Chetan Bhagat” is the writer of young generation . He is the writer of modern India and he has put up many problems of youth through his novels. This research paper attempts the differences of the cultures and inter caste marriages in India being portrayed in his novels. The research shows the actual picture of North and South India where the parents of the hero and the heroine think more about the society and its custom and rituals instead of the happiness of their children.

“*2 States: The Story of My Marriage*” is one of the masterpieces of Chetan Bhagat, who has framed the blockbuster novels. In this chain ‘Two States’ his fourth novel is published on 8th October 2009. After completing his IIT from Delhi, he joined IIM Ahmadabad (Gujarat) where he met with a girl named Anusha who was his classmate too. They fell in love in Ahmadabad struggled a lot to get a knot of wedding and later on she became his wife.

Basically 2 ‘*States: The Story of My Marriage*’ is his autobiography or it relatesto his life, it is not an autobiography as such, the actual plot and theme of the novel is taken from his personal life. ‘2 States’ – *The Story of My Marriage*’ is a typical Indian love story where two youngsters who are in love but they belong to different states of India and the circumstances and family bondage make them not to take steps for inter caste marriage.

“Love marriages around the world are simple. Boy loves girl, girl loves boy. They get married. But in India, there are a few more steps: Boy loves girl, girl loves boy. The girl’s family has to love the boy. The boy’s family has to love a girl. The girl’s family has to love boy’s

family. The boy's family has to love girl's family. Girl and boy still love each other. Then they get married."

For the past five or six years, it is seen that youngsters get jobs in different big projects and multinational companies where they meet and interact with different religions, caste and various people from different states. Sometimes they maintain their relationship as friends or colleagues but sometimes, with same interest, habits and various similarities between two, they get closer and decide to get married. And usually parents take it in a lighter node as they make themselves prepared for this decision, because at the end, boy and girl has to live together for whole life and parents would visit for a couple of days and stay with their children but ultimately their children have to live their lives together and manage the matter and things alone. Same problem falls with the hero and the heroine of the novel. They have to manage all ups and downs of the life and ultimately they have to live with each other happily.

India has many examples of inter caste, interstate and even inter country and inter-continents where marriages are very successful in the manner of happy lives and have set an example for youngsters. Actually, Indians, they do not marry a boy with a girl, they marry with different communities and religions and especially a boy and a girl. I must quote especially a girl is forced to follow all the customs and religions of the boy's family, and if she does not follow, that shows disrespect of the girl towards in-laws and other relatives and community as well.

Bhagat has tried to minimize their problems through his novel. Not only urban area but villages are also touched with inter caste marriages with the changing social scenario, the mindset of villages also can be seen. People of city in India have learnt the caste system and positively of inter caste marriages. But in villages still inter caste marriages are not welcomed wholeheartedly. They prefer that their son or daughter should marry in the same caste and community as they disown them. People in villages need to be taught about the menaces of inter caste marriages and caste system and the initiative should be taken to fight against this caste and creed system. After all marriage is meant of two souls which never require the caste and creed and other customs of the society, it only requires that happiness and peace should always remain there in the family.

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This is the story of Delhi and Chennai. But the underlying problem is the resentment from both families. Parents still have the remote control when it comes to emotions and feelings and to share the thoughts of youth...

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Bhagat has also narrated the story of that time when no cell phone was there, approximately 10 years ago. But now things have completely changed. Even a 10 year student also carries a cell phone so that time is totally over but still people of India can not digest this kind of relationship easily.

In review Bhagat speaks about his latest book '*2 States : The Story of My Marriage*' is based on his marriage and he clarifies. It's not a memoir. It was the nice feeling of suspension of disbelief , but it involves my own family so I want to make it clear that is a work of fiction. So there are character changes. (2)

For years, Indians had an orthodox mindset. They couldn't imagine inter caste marriages. They had a conception that marriages are only possible in the same community and caste. Talking about inter caste; inter religion marriages in India was taboo for most people in earlier days. However, the things changed and inter caste marriages also became a part of society. Marriages are regarded as the most important social custom and hence were viewed as the best means to remove the barriers of caste system. Today in Indian society, though we can see inter caste marriages, but mostly it is the part of the city culture. The rural parts of the country still have a long way to go.

People have realized that a successful marriage is not dependent on factors such as same caste and religion. It is on the other hand built on the aspects of mutual understanding and compatibility. It is how well the two understand your spouse better.

Today, there are ample examples when two people from totally different background and lifestyle come together and spend their entire life happy with

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each other, thanks to education. Education has broadened the periphery of thinking and helped people develop analytical powers. It has not only altered their perception about life, but also about social concerns such as marriage and relationship. Inter caste and inter religion marriages serve as a beacon light for social equality. In order to break the perils of caste system, it has become incumbent that there should be inter caste marriages. Marriage is mostly dependent on true love and feeling and once this is achieved, caste and religion all become secondary issues.(<http://weddings.ilovendia.com>)

As modernization has affected every section of society. Inter caste marriages have also received acceptance from the people in urban and modern societies. Now there has been a wide change in the present social scenario. Parents and relatives and even neighbours of the boy and the girl have been coming up with more open minds with wide acceptance of marriages outside their own castes.

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